



TOWN OF GRAFTON
GRAFTON MEMORIAL MUNICIPAL CENTER
30 PROVIDENCE ROAD

GRAFTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01519
(508) 839-5335 ext 1100 • FAX (508) 839-4602
www.grafton-ma.gov

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
WORKSHOP MEETING**

October 13, 2015
Municipal Center, Conference Room A
7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

1. SCHEDULE

7:00pm. - 7:45pm [Council on Aging Board](#)

7:45pm. - 8:30pm [Economic Development Commission](#)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MGL Chapter 30A, Sec. 21(3)
Litigation Update
Litigation Strategy
Union Negotiations
Land Negotiation
Non Union Negotiations
Strategy for Negotiations
Minutes

ADJOURN

REPORT OF THE GRAFTON COUNCIL ON AGING

****It is the mission of the Grafton Senior Center to link needs with resources to maintain and enhance the overall quality of life for Grafton's senior and disabled population.****

The Council on Aging is pleased to submit its annual report for the year ending December 31, 2014. Our programs grew and changed to reflect the changing needs of our wide population. The Center has been highly utilized as a place of fun and recreation as well as a source of information, assistance and referral. Many individuals and families have come to us with personal crises and we are proud to have provided information and support.

The Grafton Senior Center endeavors to offer the older population (those 60 years of age and older) of Grafton a quality program including educational and wellness workshops, home delivered meals, congregate (on site) meals, crisis assistance, a referral/information service, transportation as well as recreational and fitness activities. The Department also offers a large volunteer program. Additional services include a monthly newsletter and fuel assistance.

The information and referral program is one of the most widely used services. We function as a community resource for obtaining information on a wide range of topics. These areas include fuel assistance, Meals on Wheels, Alzheimer's disease and dementia, elders-at-risk and elder abuse, among many others. All inquiries are held in strict confidence.

Outreach is a program where in-home assessments are conducted and services are suggested so that elders can remain independent and at home to age in place for as long as possible. Outreach also does "the little things" to enhance the quality of life for those that are homebound. Outreach Worker Lisa Kelley assisted with the needs of elders and their families. Ms. Kelley also provided assistance with forms for the SMOC (South Middlesex Opportunity Council) fuel program, along with the FOGE (Friends of Grafton Elders) heat fund. These programs aid elders having financial difficulty heating their homes.

The Grafton Senior Shuttle, along with the WRTA (Worcester Regional Transit Authority) van, allows for elders and the disabled of any age (when possible) to access rides to medical appointments, hair salons, grocery shopping, to pick up prescriptions, as well as many other errands. It is a bit easier to give up driving when the time comes when one knows there is an alternative to asking friends and family for a ride. The availability of these vans has been invaluable in maintaining independence and dignity for our elder and disabled population. With our population aging, it is comforting to know there is alternate transportation available, as studies have shown that reaction time decreases after age eighty, approximately. With financial budget cuts always on the horizon, we hope to continue to receive some reimbursement from the WRTA for the operation of its vehicle. It is hoped that transportation in Grafton will always be available, despite budget issues, as it is the lifeblood of senior independence. Grafton is a great place to age; we hope to keep it that way.

The Council on Aging received a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. This grant covers part of the wages of the WRTA van driver, volunteer recognition and education, and supplies. This grant has been vital in meeting some departmental needs that the operational budget is not able to address, such as continued training.

The Senior Center partners with Elder Services of Worcester Nutrition Program to serve meals to the senior population. Some folks eat lunch here at the Center, while others are homebound and receive a meal at home at a reduced cost, subsidized by the state. Socialization is crucial to wellness, and the nutrition program does much to create positive interactions as well as balanced meals.

The Senior Tax Work Off Abatement Program is administered by the Council on Aging office, primarily Barbara Connelly, with assistance from the Assessors' Office. It is a mutually beneficial partnership between seniors with applicable skills and town offices that need an extra hand. Seniors work in Town Departments doing various tasks in exchange for abatement off their property taxes. It is income eligible, with certain requirements.

This Center is for ALL seniors in Grafton, not just for those who are in need of assistance or are "elderly." One visit here and you will see younger, active seniors taking part in exercise, crafts, cards, meals, etc. We always are happy to see a new face come through the door, and we make every effort to make everyone feel welcome. Please come down and introduce yourself! Or give us a call at 508-839-9242 and we will pick you up in our handy van (wheelchair lift accessible).

Payments Totaling Over \$1000.00

Stanley Steamer of Boston	\$1,310.26
Elder Services of Worcester	\$1,000.00
Liturgical Publications	\$2,676.00
John Ayotte	\$1,243.72
Barbara Connelly	\$2,256.96

Total Meals January 2014 – December 201

MONTH	YEAR	MEALS ON WHEELS	CONGREGATE
		(Home Delivered) MEALS	(At Center) MEALS
JANUARY	2014	844	316
FEBRUARY	2014	673	279
MARCH	2014	907	250
APRIL	2014	871	333
MAY	2014	876	328
JUNE	2014	870	339
JULY	2014	936	336
AUGUST	2014	891	347
SEPTEMBER	2014	863	349
OCTOBER	2014	955	342
NOVEMBER	2014	950	293
DECEMBER	2014	839	301

Total Congregate Meals: 4,053 meals
 Total MOW Meals: 9,621 meals
 TOTAL MEALS SERVED 13,674

Transportation Statistics

	Duplicated	Unduplicated
Total Rides:	5,337	213

This statistic shows that the average rider uses the senior van over twenty-five times per year. Many use it as their sole source of transportation, whether it is to medicals, the grocery store, haircuts, banking, etc.

ACTIVITIES	Duplicated	Unduplicated
Community Education	848	185
Cultural Events	516	120
Fitness/Exercise	4,618	208
Health Screening	789	93
Information Sharing	238	168
Recreation/Social Evt	7,924	585
Total Activities:	15,082	1,359



Senior Center Crafters

TOTAL USE OF SENIOR CENTER

Statistics from 01/01/2014 to 12/31/2014

Age: 60 and older

Total Seniors Served

Duplicated: 26,971 (Units of Service)
 Unduplicated: 987 (Number of Seniors)

MANY THANK YOUS

This report of the Council on Aging would be remiss if it did not acknowledge the many volunteers who tirelessly serve Grafton's seniors and disabled—whether you run a card group, deliver meals to the homebound, bring in goodies to share, or help in the kitchen, each and every one of you is appreciated. Without you we would not be able to offer the many programs currently available. Grafton is very fortunate to have such dedicated, caring individuals

serving as volunteers. In addition, we wish to thank the many Town individuals, organizations and area businesses that have donated their resources. Special thanks to Worcester Elder Services for its dedication to providing services to our community. Our Boy and Girl Scout Troops and different school classes in Grafton have added much to our Center. Many thanks to them and to their leaders and teachers for all the joy they have brought to the Seniors throughout the year.

Thanks to the Assessors' and Treasurer/Collector's Office staff for their assistance in processing Tax Work-Off abatements.

The Council thanks the Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator Tim McInerney, Asst. Town Administrator Doug Willardson, the Finance Committee and Town employees for their assistance and cooperation in helping this department meet its goals.

Thanks to the Friends of Grafton Elders (FOGE) for their efforts in supporting the seniors of Grafton. The help of the Friends group has been invaluable in keeping many elders warm. In addition, it is the generosity of FOGE that has allowed us to provide free Senior Exercise, Zumba, Tai Chi, and Mat and Chair Yoga to seniors. FOGE also donated \$500 in gift cards to the Holiday Giving Tree to be used throughout the year for Grafton seniors in need.

We thank the Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation for the \$500 Community Spirit 9/11 mini grant.

Many thanks to the Lions Club for its continued support and the wonderful evening dinners they provide. These organizations improve the quality of life for Grafton's elders and disabled population, for which the COA is very grateful.

We thank Annette McCarthy, Norma LaMarche, and Nina Whiting for all their help in leading the Craft Group and organizing the Movie of the Month. The Craft Group's donation of \$1,049.00 to the Senior Center was greatly appreciated! In addition, to these ladies volunteering their time, they have helped to bring many new faces to the Center!

Many individuals, groups and organizations have also been so kind to donate to the department for seniors in the community. Your support has been so very vital to the offerings of our department. There has been one individual who wishes to remain anonymous, who has been incredibly generous to our seniors. You've made some ordinary days here extraordinary. We thank all of you for all that you have done.

Our Holiday Giving Tree was an amazing experience. Anonymous tags were taken by individuals who returned the tags with beautifully wrapped gifts for Grafton seniors. UniBank also participated in displaying a Giving Tree for seniors in their bank lobby and we thank them for their participation. Given the state of the economy, we were especially impressed with the generosity of our residents. Most requests were very basic needs, such as a gloves, scarves, and books. Grafton should be very proud of the caliber of citizens residing in our fine community.

As we start the Senior Center restroom renovation project, we thank the many individuals, businesses, and groups who have contributed to the Restroom Renovation Fund. It is because of their generosity that we will be able to see this project come to fruition in 2015.

THANKS TO COA STAFF

The Council and Director thank the staff of the department for its kindness and compassion in caring for our elders. Your dedication to excellence is evident every day. It is because of you that the seniors feel welcome, cared for and heard. When someone with memory loss calls many, many times in one day, they receive the same tender response during the seventh call as they did on their first call. We are proud of the work you do, and the Town is fortunate to have you as elder advocates, particularly in these times of budget tightening. The Town has itself a top-notch staff caring for its elder and disabled population—as well as their families, and it is a pleasure and an honor to work with you.

The Grafton Senior Center is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

LIFE IS

- By: Michael Sage

Life is like a river, constantly flowing,
Life is like a tree, constantly growing.

Life is like a desert, constantly changing,
Life is like the oceans, constantly re-arranging.

Life is accepting, both others and yourself,
Life is understanding, and believing in oneself.

Life is committing, and doing the best you can,
Life is believing, and being your own very best fan.

Life is for loving, and also for caring,
Life is for helping, and giving and sharing.

Life is the seeds that you plant each day,
Life is creating a better world in which to stay.

Respectfully Submitted,

Grafton Council on Aging
William Drago, Chair
William Cutler, Vice Chair
Marcella Benoit, Secretary
Rev. Phil Goff
Barbara Lapoint
Annette McCarthy
Peter Shay

It is with deep sadness that the Council on Aging Board reports the loss of board member and active participant of the Senior Center, Barbara Gardner, who passed away in August 2014.

STAFF LISTING

Full Time Staff
Martha Chartier, Van Driver
Barbara Connelly, Director
Bryan Dudley, Van Driver
Nancy Malone, Secretary/Bookkeeper

Part Time Staff
Tim Brady, Volunteer SHINE Counselor
Lisa Kelley, Outreach Worker
Karen Kosiba, Elder Nutrition Meal Site Manager (ESW)



TOWN OF GRAFTON
30 Providence Rd.
Grafton, MA 01519

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
CHARGE**

NAME: Economic Development Commission

The Economic Development Commission, an eleven member committee, is an ad hoc commission reporting to the Board of Selectmen that advises the Board of Selectmen and the Planning Board on economic development matters. The Commission is based on broad representation from various departments, committees and individuals throughout the Town of Grafton. The Committee's purpose is to promote sustainable economic development and to assist the Board of Selectmen and the Planning Board in the implementation of the town's economic goals and objectives. The committee was first created on October 1, 1991. The most recent revision to the committee charge was completed December 16, 2014.

MEMBERSHIP: 11 members

Member of the Finance Committee	(1)
Member of the Planning Board	(1)
Member of the Board of Selectmen	(1)
Member at Large	(8)

CHARGE OF THE COMMISSION:

To conduct meetings related to economic development for the Town of Grafton utilizing Massachusetts General Laws to steer the committee process.

To create and manage the Town approved Commission budget.

To explore, inform and recommend to the Board of Selectmen and Planning Board action items that might enhance economic development within the community.

The Commission should request permission of the Board of Selectmen to sponsor Legislative articles impacting local economic development and speak to articles at Town meeting that impact economic development of the community.

To make the public aware of the Commission and its mission.

To maintain contact with the business community within the Town of Grafton and its environs.

To maintain community membership in Chamber(s) of Commerce.

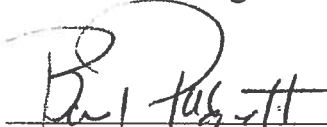
To express concerns of the business community to the elected Boards.

To collaborate with Town staff on projects, as the Commission is able, at Town staff direction.


CALENDAR FOR THE COMMISSION:

The Commission should meet at a minimum at least quarterly. The Commission should meet at least monthly during times when they are considering recommending the adoption of regulations or laws concerning economic development enhancement.

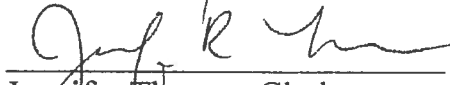
Adopted: 12/16/2014



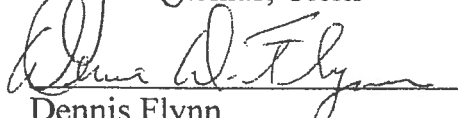
Brook Padgett, Chair



Craig Dauphinais, Vice Chair



Jennifer Thomas, Clerk



Dennis Flynn

Bruce Spinney, III

EDC Membership

1. Michael Scully - CHAIR
2. Jeffrey K. Oberg - VICE CHAIR
3. Jim Henderson - CLERK
4. Kristin Wood - SECRETARY
5. Brook Padgett - BOS REP
6. Mary E Campbell
7. Cooper T Cerulo
8. Phil Holahan
9. John Lapoint
10. Sue A. Robbins
11. Vacant